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## **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Edward Ramage on October 17, 2003.

The application has been amended as follows:

- A) In claim 12, line 16, after the word "requirements" insert ---
- , and further wherein the power control module monitors a motor signal sent to the power control module from the motor encoder to determine the level of excitation required in order to control the speed and direction of the first motor ---.
- 2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art discloses a drive system for a vehicle having a first wheel, a first motor connected to the wheel and the motor being a switch reluctance motor, a generator electrically connected to the motor, an internal combustion engine mechanically connected to the generator and a controller.

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However, the prior art fails to disclose, in combination with the invention, a power control module electrically connected to the generator and the first motor and including a central computer and a control circuit and the central computer controlling the speed and direction of the first motor through the control circuit and controlling the generator output level to the first motor based on the first motor power requirements and the power control module is adapted to monitor a motor signal sent to the power control module from the motor encoder to determine the level of excitation required in order to control the speed and direction of the first motor.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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## Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Julio C. Gonzalez whose telephone number is (703) 305-1563. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8AM-5PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nestor Ramirez can be reached on (703) 308-1371. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Jcg

TRAN NGUYEN PRIMARY EXAMINER